



Independent Statistics & Analysis

U.S. Energy Information  
Administration

March 12, 2019

## U.S. coal production declines

---

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects that U.S. coal production will continue decreasing in 2019 and 2020. EIA's monthly forecast now estimates that U.S. coal production will reach 695 million short tons in 2019. Previously, EIA had forecast production in 2019 to exceed 722 million short tons.

In its March *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, EIA forecasts U.S. coal production to drop further to 664 million short tons in 2020, down 5% from 2019. EIA attributes declining U.S. coal production to fading demand for U.S. coal exports abroad, as global economic activity slows, and to decreasing consumption in the U.S. power sector due to competition from natural gas and renewable energy sources.

In 2020, the outlook forecasts coal's share of U.S. utility-scale electricity generation to drop below 25% for the first time since 1949.

Jonathan Cogan, for EIA, Washington